



Illinois Inroads to Inclusion

By Lois Barnhart, Illinois Inclusion Officer

July 2012

Illinois Inclusion Efforts

This has been a busy year for the Illinois Inclusion Team. Recruitment efforts led to the addition of RSVP Director, Dave Layton; Founder of IL Parents of Adults with DD Unite, Laurie Jerue, Great Lakes ADA Center, Jessica Madrigal, MORE Access Solutions, LLC, Chicago, Kerry Obrist, and Foster Grandparent Program Director, Gloria Plummer. The Inclusion Team seeks to broaden impact across Illinois through increased networking and representation of all CNCS programs and people with disabilities.

The Capacity Building sub-committee completed the Guide to Creating an Inclusive Volunteer Program. The guide offers information regarding specific disabilities, including tips for person-centered language, reception etiquette, recruitment tips and accommodations. We hope the guide will be useful to all. It can be utilized at no cost. The team will be developing a power point to accompany the guide in future months.

In June, Illinois and Iowa partnered to present a three tiered session: providing insights into inclusion team development; program directors discussion of strategies to build inclusive programs; AmeriCorps members with disabilities discussed how their programs impacted their lives. The Guide and other resources were distributed to all participants.

Karla Kunzeman, Volunteer Programs Manager for the Commission, reported that her Volunteer Program Directors have chosen to include disability inclusion in all of the VMN (Volunteer Management Network) Conferences across the state. Ruth Thompson, Executive Director, CCDI, Coalition for Citizens with Disability in Illinois has stepped up with a request to advocate for people with disabilities across the state through this venue. Thank you to Karla and Ruth for supporting the inclusion project! A link to the VMN conferences is located to the right.

The Illinois Inclusion Team will be meeting in July, to review the strategic plan for progress and or modification. Look for an update in August. We also formally welcome Brandon Bodor as ED to the Commission and look forward to a year of progress in regard to inclusive practices in CNCS programs in Illinois!

Illinois Disability Outreach

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LINKS OF INTEREST:

Inclusion:

NSIP (National Service Inclusion Project)
www.serviceandinclusion.org

Volunteerism:

Opportunities in Illinois
www.serve.illinois.gov

Volunteerism Conferences
<http://www2.illinois.gov/serve/Pages/Conferences.aspx>

AmeriCorps
www.americorps.org



